

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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## OPINION 567

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804, and validation under the same Powers of the specific name *dimidiata* Fabricius (J.C.), 1793, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata* (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

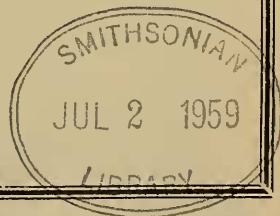
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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

## OPINION 567

**DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES  
IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE NOMINAL  
GENUS "CENTRIS" FABRICIUS (J.C.), 1804, AND VALID-  
ATION UNDER THE SAME POWERS OF THE SPECIFIC  
NAME "DIMIDIATA" FABRICIUS (J.C.), 1793, AS  
PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "APIS  
DIMIDIATA" (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER  
HYMENOPTERA)**

**RULING :—**(1) The following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers :—

- (a) All selections of type species for the nominal genus *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius (J.C.), 1775, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.
- (b) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy :—
  - (i) *dimidiata* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata* ;
  - (ii) *dimidiata* Gmelin (J.F.), [1790], as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above : *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius (J.C.), 1775) (Name No. 1369) ;
- (b) *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Taschenberg (1883) : *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius (J.C.), 1793, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above) (Name No. 1370).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius (J.C.), 1775, as published in the combination *Apis haemorrhoidalis* (specific name of type species of *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804) (Name No. 1663) ;
- (b) *dimidiata* Fabricius (J.C.), 1793, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata* and as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above (specific name of type species of *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841) (Name No. 1664) ;

- (c) *rustica* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis rustica* (Name No. 1665).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1281 :—

*Hemisia* Klug, 1807 (a junior objective synonym of *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804).

(5) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *dimidiata* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, and as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(i) above (Name No. 594) ;

- (b) *dimidiata* Gmelin (J.F.), [1790], as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, and as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(ii) above (Name No. 595).

(6) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 272 :—

CENTRIDINI (correction of CENTRINI) Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901 (type genus : *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804)

(7) The under-mentioned family-group names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) CENTRINI Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901 (type genus : *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804) (an Invalid Original Spelling for CENTRIDINI) (Name No. 303) ;

- (b) HEMISIINI Michener (C.D.), 1944 (type genus : *Hemisia* Klug, 1807) (invalid because the name of the type genus (*Hemisia* Klug) is a junior objective synonym of *Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804, the name of the type genus of CENTRIDINI (correction of CENTRINI) Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901, of which therefore HEMISIINI Michener, 1944, is a junior objective synonym) (Name No. 304).

## I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In May 1953, Professor Charles D. Michener (*University of Kansas, Department of Entomology, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) addressed a preliminary communication to the Office of the Commission on the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating for the genus *Centris* Fabricius, 1804 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) a type species in harmony with accustomed usage. Various circumstances combined to render it impossible to make any progress with this case until the early part of 1957. It was then found that certain minor adjustments were required to meet the needs of the

work of the Commission. These matters were, however, quickly adjusted and on 19th June 1957 the following application was submitted to the Commission by Professor Michener :—

**Proposed designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus “*Centris*” Fabricius, 1804, and proposed validation under the same powers of the specific name “*dimidiata*” Fabricius, 1793, as published in the combination “*Apis dimidiata*” (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)**

By CHARLES D. MICHENER

(University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.)

The principal purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Centris* Fabricius, 1804 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera). The second purpose of the application is to ask for the validation under the same Powers of the specific name *dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, the specific name of the type species of *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841, a genus, the name of which is also involved in the present case. I am opposed to any excessive use of the Plenary Powers, but, in my opinion, their use for the purposes specified above is fully justified, since otherwise serious confusion would certainly result.

2. The name concerned is *Centris* Fabricius (1804, *Systema Piezatorum* : 354). Many species were originally included in it and these are now placed among several genera of bees. From 1804 to about 1850 considerable confusion existed as to what the generic units should be and authors placed species in various genera for reasons often no longer apparent. During this period two type selections involving originally included species were made for *Centris*, as follows :—

(i) *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793 (*Ent. syst.* 2 : 316), selected by Blanchard, 1840, *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes*, 3 : 405.

(ii) *Apis hirtipes* Fabricius, 1793 (*Ent. syst.* 2 : 315) (a junior subjective synonym of *Apis rustica* Olivier, 1789, *Ency. méth.* 4 (Ins.) : 64) designated by Blanchard, 1849, in Cuvier, *Règne Animal* (Ed. 3), *insectes*, 2 (texte) : 217 ; atlas : pl. 128 *bis*, fig. 7.

3. *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius, the valid type species of *Centris* Fabricius does not belong to that genus as currently understood but is the type species of the genus now usually known by the name *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841 (through selection by Taschenberg, 1883, *Berl. ent. Z.* 27 : 85).

4. Le Peletier, in 1841 (*Histoire Naturelle des Insectes*, Hyménoptères 2 : 11), described the genus *Eulaema* for *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius and its allies, a group of apine bees, and used the name *Centris* for a group of anthophorine bees similar to *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 386). Le Peletier was followed in this procedure by most subsequent bee students, as shown by the following partial list of major works : Smith, 1854, *Catalogue of Hymenopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum*, part II, Apidae ; Dalla Torre, 1896, *Catalogue Hymenopterorum*, vol. X, Apidae ;



Friese, 1900, "Monographie der Bienengattung *Centris*", *Ann. K. K. Naturhist. Hofmus.* [Wien], **15** : 237-350. Shorter works by many authors, including Alfken, Cockerell, Cresson, Cameron, Cheesman, Friese, Lutz, Moure, and Schwarz follow the same usage for the generic names *Centris* and *Eulaema*, even though the first validly selected type species of *Centris* is a species of *Eulaema*.

5. Schrottky (1905, *Z. syst. Hymenopterologie Dipterologie* **5** : 23-26 ; 1905, *An. Cien. Paraguayos* (1) (No. **4**) : 13 ; 1909, *Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* **11** : 160 ; and 1914, *Deuts. ent. Z.* **1914** : 220) pointed out that *Centris* should be applied to a group of apine bees (usually called *Eulaema*) and used the name *Hemisia* Klug, 1807, to replace the name *Centris* of authors for the anthophorine genus. In this Schrottky followed Spinola (1851, in *Historia Fisica y Politica de Chile, Fauna* **6** : 167). Based upon the type designations, this procedure is entirely correct but Schrottky's argument that the Fabrician description of *Centris* applies better to the apine than to the anthophorine group is incorrect, as was pointed out by Cockerell, in Lutz and Cockerell (1920, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **42** : 549).

6. The only authors to follow Schrottky in the use of the generic names *Hemisia* Klug (type species : *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775, by designation of Cockerell, 1906, *Trans. Amer. ent. Soc.* **32** : 105) and *Centris* Fabricius (type species : *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793) are Sandhouse (1943, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* **92** : 557) and Michener (1944, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **82** : 186 ; 1951, *J. Kansas Ent. Soc.* **24** : 1).

7. In the genus usually known as *Centris* (= *Hemisia*), a survey of my card file (known to be incomplete, yet fully representative) shows that 233 names were proposed under the name *Centris*, 18 under the name *Hemisia*, and some, of course under other generic names. In the genus usually known as *Eulaema* (= *Centris* with type species *dimidiata*), none of the forms were described under the name *Centris*.

8. It is obvious that transfer of the generic name *Centris* from the anthophorine genus to the apine genus would cause much more confusion than uniformity, even though under the Rules it is the nomenclatorially correct procedure. It is therefore requested that the Commission use its Plenary Powers to set aside all type selections hitherto made for the genus *Centris* Fabricius, 1804, and, having done so, designate *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775, as type species of this genus. This procedure will conserve both the name *Centris* and the name *Eulaema* in their traditional senses. It gives *Centris* Fabricius and *Hemisia* Klug the same type species, which is desirable in view of the long recognized synonymy of these names, dating formally from Dalla Torre (1896) and recognized at the subgeneric level by recent authors. Furthermore, it makes use of an originally included species as the type species of *Centris* Fabricius.

9. The solution recommended involves the addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* both of the generic name *Centris* Fabricius and of the name *Eulaema* Le Peletier. In connection with this latter name another problem arises which calls for action by the Commission under its Plenary Powers, for the name *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793, the name of the type species of the latter genus is a junior homonym of two older identical names : *Apis dimidiata* Olivier, 1789 (*Ency. méth.* **4** (Ins.) : 64) and *Apis dimidiata*

Gmelin (J.F.), [1790] (in Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(5) : 2780). So far as I have been able to learn, neither of these names has ever been referred to in the literature (except for catalogue references, like Dalla Torre, 1896), since the dates on which each was respectively first published. Certainly neither of these names is in accepted usage. I would therefore strongly urge that these names be suppressed under the Plenary Powers and the name *dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793, thereby validated. In the case of the earlier of these names, the action now recommended is particularly important quite apart from the need for validating the name *dimidiata* Fabricius, for judging by the description the species described by Olivier is probably a species of the genus *Centris*. It would be confusing in the extreme to have different species with, at one time or another, the same specific name (*dimidiata*) in two genera which have both gone under the name *Centris* at one time or another. To make matters worse, *dimidiata* Olivier and *dimidiata* Fabricius were from the same region, Cayenne.

10. The genus *Centris* Fabricius is currently accepted as the type genus of a tribe CENTRIDINI. This name was originally published by Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.) in 1901 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (7) 7 : 47) in the defective form CENTRINI. This Invalid Original Spelling was corrected to CENTRIDINI by Moure in 1945 (*Rev. Ent.*, R. de J. 16 : 293). In a subsequent personal communication Moure has informed me that he made this correction because the name *Centris* is probably based on the Greek word *κεντρίς*, genitive *κεντρίδος*. This word was also used in Latin with the genitive "Centridis". The stem of this word is thus clearly "Centrid-", and the tribal name should therefore be CENTRIDINI. The name in its corrected form should now be placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*, while the spelling CENTRINI should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*. To this *Index* should also now be added the name HEMISIINI Michener, 1944 (*Bull. amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 82 : 286), for under the proposals now submitted the name of its type genus (*Hemisia*) will become a junior objective synonym of *Centris* (paragraph 8 above), the names CENTRIDINI and HEMISIINI thus becoming objective synonyms of one another, the former, as the older name, taking priority.

11. For the reasons set out above the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Centris* Fabricius, 1804, made prior to the Ruling now asked for and, having done so, to designate the nominal species *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775, to be the type species of the above genus ;
- (b) to suppress the under-mentioned specific names for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy :—
  - (i) *dimidiata* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata* ;
  - (ii) *dimidiata* Gmelin (J.F.), [1790], as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata* ;

- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *Centris* Fabricius, 1804 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above : *Apis haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775) ;
  - (b) *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Taschenberg (1883) : *Apis dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *haemorrhoidalis* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the combination *Apis haemorrhoidalis* (specific name of type species of *Centris* Fabricius, 1804) ;
  - (b) *dimidiata* Fabricius, 1793, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above (specific name of type species of *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841) ;
  - (c) *rustica* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis rustica* ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
- Hemisia* Klug, 1807 (a junior objective synonym of *Centris* Fabricius, 1804, as defined under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above) ;
- (5) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *dimidiata* Olivier, 1789, as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, and as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(i) above ;
  - (b) *dimidiata* Gmelin (J.F.), [1790], as published in the combination *Apis dimidiata*, and as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(ii) above ;
- (6) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—
- CENTRIDINI (correction of CENTRINI) Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901 (type genus : *Centris* Fabricius, 1804) (first published in correct form as CENTRIDINI by Moure (J.) (1945)) ;
- (7) to place the under-mentioned family-group names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) CENTRINI Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901 (an Invalid Original Spelling for CENTRIDINI) ;



- (b) HEMISIINI Michener (C.D.), 1944 (type genus : *Hemisia* Klug, 1807) (invalid because under the Ruling under the Plenary Powers asked for in (1)(a) above the species which is the type species of *Hemisia* Klug, 1807, will become also the type species of *Centris* Fabricius, 1775, and in consequence the generic name *Hemisia* Klug, 1807, will become a junior objective synonym of *Centris* Fabricius, 1775, and the family-group name HEMISIINI Michener, 1944, will become a junior objective synonym of CENTRIDINI (correction of CENTRINI) Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901).

## II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Professor Michener's preliminary communication, the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating a type species consistent with current practice for the genus *Centris* Fabricius was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)770.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 25th June 1957 and was published on 30th September of the same year in Part 9 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Michener (C.D.), 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 287-291).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51-56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 30th September 1957 (a) in Part 9 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Professor Michener's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to four general zoological serial publications and to seven entomological serials in Europe and America.

**5. No Objection Received :** No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

## III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(58)12 :** On 3rd April 1958, a Voting Paper (V.P.(58)12) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, " the proposal relating to the generic name *Centris* Fabricius, 1804 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera), as set out in Points (1) to (7) in paragraph 11 on pages 290 to 291 in Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 11 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**7. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 3rd July 1958.

**8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(58)12 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(58)12 was as follows :—

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty (20) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*  
 Holthuis ; Prantl ; Hering ; Vokes ; Lemche ; Boschma ; Bodenheimer ; Dymond ; Mayr ; Key ; do Amaral ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hemming ; Stoll ; Kühnelt ; Cabrera ; Tortonese ; Jaczewski ; Riley ;
- (b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*  
 Mertens ;
- (c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1) :*  
 Miller ;
- (d) *Voting Papers not returned, two (2) :*  
 Bonnet ; Hankó.

**9. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 4th July 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(58)12, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Opinion ” :** On 7th July 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(58)12.

**11. Original References for Generic and Specific Names :** The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Centris* Fabricius (J.C.), 1804, *Syst. Piezat.* : 354

*dimidiata*, *Apis*, Olivier, 1789, *Ency. méth.* 4 (Ins.) : 64

*dimidiata*, *Apis* Gmelin (J.F.), [1790], in Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(5) : 2780

*dimidiata*, *Apis*, Fabricius (J.C.), 1793, *Ent. syst.* 2 : 316

*Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841, in Sonnini's Suite à Buffon, *Hist. nat. Ins.*, Hym. 2 : 11

*haemorrhoidalis*, *Apis*, Fabricius (J.C.), 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 386

*Hemisia* Klug, 1807, *Mag. f. Insektenk.* (Illiger) 6 : 213, 227

*rustica*, *Apis*, Olivier, 1789, *Ency. méth.* 4 (Ins.) : 64

**12. Reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus :** The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Eulaema* Le Peletier, 1841

Taschenberg, 1883, *Berl. ent. Z.*

27 : 85

**13. Original References for Family-Group Names :** The following are the original references for the family-group names placed by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* on the *Official List* or, as the case may be, on the *Official Index* of names for taxa of the family-group category :—

CENTRIDINI (correction of CENTRINI) Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (7) 7 : 47

CENTRINI Cockerell (T.D.A.) & Cockerell (W.P.), 1901 (an Invalid Original Spelling for CENTRIDINI)

HEMISIINI Michener (C.D.), 1944, *Bull. amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* 82 : 286

**14. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures :** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

**15. “Opinion” Number :** The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Sixty-Seven (567) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Seventh day of July, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

